

HUDDY & DUVAL'S

U. S. MILITARY MAGAZINE.

PHILADELPHIA--FEBRUARY, 1842.

FIRST TROOP OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAVALRY.

The first "Troop of Montgomery County Cavalry" in Pennsylvania, of which the following is a brief biographical sketch, is far from being a military corps of recent origin.

It was organized at as early a date as the year 1794, under captain Kennedy, and was at that period considered one of the first and best in the State, and were recognized as such as well by the then Executive of the United States as by that of their own native State.

A special requisition was made upon them by the government to unite in suppressing an insurrection in western Pennsylvania; they obeyed the call with alacrity and promptness. That campaign is well known in the history of Pennsylvania, by the appellation of the "western expedition." The military appearance of the corps and their deportment as citizen soldiers even at that early period of their existence, won them the esteem of all the commanding officers and military with whom they were associated in that expedition.

Subsequent to that period the services of the troop were again called into requisition, and again with the same alacrity and promptness, and with that spirit with which citizen soldiers should always be actuated at the call of their country, united in what was then called the "Northampton expedition."

The company continued under the command of captain Kennedy until the year 1801, when he resigned his commission, and was succeeded by captain Wells, who held the command until about the year 1805-6. Under captain Wells the corps remained inactive, what might be termed in *statu quo*, but at their regular trainings the members were always punctual in attendance.

Upon the resignation of captain Wells, John Matheys was called by the unanimous voice of the Troop to the command, and continued as such for almost thirty years. The urbanity and officer-like deportment of captain Matheys, rendered him beloved by every member, and his reputation as a cavalry officer made him at all times respected and obeyed. Under his command the Troop flourished and many additions were made to its roll. They made many pleasant and instructive excursions, in all of which they were received by the military and citizens of the numerous places they visited with every mark of respect, kindness and hospitality.

The Troop was not called into service during the last war, but during all that period were held under marching orders, thus evincing their readiness:

To curb the steed, to wield the sword,
And strike for their country at the word.

They twice visited Camps Dupont and Marcus Hook during the war, and were reviewed by Governor Snyder and Staff, and by them received in a most complimentary manner.

Captain J. Scheetz succeeded captain Matheys in the command in 1835, and continued in command two years. In the spring of 1836 the Troop visited Philadelphia, and met at the hands of the military of that truly hospitable city, with a most warm and soldier-like reception. In the autumn of the same year they visited Paoli and united with the military of Chester county in their annual parade on that consecrated ground.

The present captain was elected in 1837, and under his command, like that of his predecessor of the same name, the corps found an able and efficient officer, and have lost none of their reputation, either in military appearance or cavalry exercises.

In the autumn of 1839, the corps made an excursion to Reading in Berks County, Pa., and were handsomely received by the volunteers of that place under the immediate command of General Keim, and by them escorted to their quarters, where every provision had been previously made by "mine host" that could be imagined to render to a soldier's comfort. The next day the company accepted a polite invitation and dined with the "Washington Grays" of Reading, at their armory, where all the good cheer that could delight an epicure were spread in abundance before them.

During their stay at this beautiful place, every one both civil and military, seemed to desire to outvie each other in showering upon the Troop kindness and hospitality, so much so that the company almost forgot that they were visitors, so much were they made *at home*.

On leaving, they were very politely furnished with an escort by the "Washington Grays" and brought with them recollections of attention and kindness at the hands of General Keim and the other military of Reading, which will

never be effaced while this lamp of life "holds out to burn."

On the 21st of September 1840, they encamped at Paoli, and were one among the numerous companies which constituted "Camp Wayne." The Troop on this occasion, as well as all others were treated with marked attention, and were selected as the escort to Governor Porter and Staff to their quarters in the camp.

In the Autumn of 1841, the Troop again encamped at Pottstown, in their native county, and were among the many military companies comprising "Camp Montgomery." On this occasion they were encamped for four days and were

considered one of the best disciplined and equipt companies in the camp, and received a corresponding attention.

In all the excursions made by the Troop, their commanding officers had the pleasure to see the ranks full, and the men all studiously well equipt.

The present officers are,

CAPTAIN—WILLIAM Z. MATHEYS.

Lieutenants.

1st.—Robert Pollard,
2d.—J. Baker,
3d.—Adam Hurst.

Sergeants.

1st.—Henry G. Hart,
2d.—David Z. Matheys,
3d.—Jacob Highly.

WASHINGTON GRAYS, OF READING.

We present in this number the new and improved uniform of the above company, believing our old and new patrons will be gratified with the appearance and prosperity of a corps, who have added so much to the reputation of the citizen soldier, and are so favorably and extensively known.

A synopsis of the description of the corps, contained in the Fourth number of the first volume, to which the reader is referred, will be given: the annals of the corps must be as briefly stated as our limits will admit.

"A soldier;
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth."

The corps was formed in April 1825, but dates its Anniversary from the period of Inspection, May 8th, 1826. The model after which it organized was the *then* Light Infantry Corps of Philadelphia Washington Grays, Captain C. G. Childs.

In conjunction with the Reading Battalion, Maj. Geo. Getz, they received and entertained the Washington Grays of Philadelphia, Capt. Childs, July 2, 1825. In September 1826, the corps made its first excursion and marched to Paoli, where with the volunteers of Chester, commemorated the massacre of the 20th Sept., 1777. On the 3d July, 1827, the corps again united with the Battalion in giving welcome to the 1st and 2d companies of Philadelphia State Fencibles, under captains James Page and Charles Wetherill.

On August 24, 1827, they were honoured by a visit from the Republican Artillerists of Chester County, Capt. Evans.

By invitation the corps visited Kutztown, Aug. 12, 1831. On July 4th, 1833, the 'Grays' aided by the Reading Troop and Reading Artillerists, entertained as Guests, the following companies.—First Troop Schuylkill County Cavalry, Capt. Nichols; the National Troop of Exeter and Oley, Capt. Schaffer; Easton Grays, Capt. Yohe; Washington Guards of Kutztown, Capt. Bieber; National Light Infantry of Pottsville, Capt. Dean; and Unionville Guards of Berks County, Capt. Butz.

The corps left Reading July 1, 1834, and visited Harrisburgh, Middletown, Lancaster &c. The 4th of July 1837,

was celebrated by the company at Pottsville, on which occasion it was accompanied by Rashé's fine Brass Band. On Dec. 25, 1837, the corps with the Artillerists received the Hamburg Dragoons and Oley Troop. May 25, 1838, paid a visit to Philadelphia, Norristown, Pottstown &c.

During Aug. 1838, they received the Philadelphia Lancer Guards, Capt. Stille, and on July 4th, 1839, were visited by their celebrated prototype, the Washington Grays, of Philadelphia, Col. Childs. On Oct. 28, 1839, escorted and paid the honours of the Borough to the First Troop Montgomery Cavalry, Capt. Matheys, and Chester and Delaware Troop, Capt. Henry.

In Sept. 1840, they marched to the Paoli Monument, and participated in the duties of Camp Wayne, then proceeded en route through Philadelphia, and were escorted to their quarters by the Junior Artillerists, Capt. F. Fritz; State Artillery, Capt. G. Bumm; La Fayette Artillery, Capt. J. Barger; Washington Blues, Capt. W. C. Patterson; National Grays, Capt. P. Fritz; Montgomery Greens, Capt. R. Flanagan; and La Fayette Light Guard, Capt. Mitchell. The hospitality of the city was extended and an escort performed by the National Grays, Capt. Fritz.

The Grays performed three days duty at Camp Washington, Bernville, Berks County, in August 1841, and were inspected by the Commander-in-chief, Gov. Porter.

The new uniform was worn on the 4th of July, 1841: the corps is in a flourishing condition, and numbers Seventy-two active members.

Present Officers.

CAPTAIN—WILLIAM H. KEIM.

Lieutenants.

1st.—D. McKNIGHT, | 2d.—H. H. MUHLENBERG,
3d.—JOHN BAIN.

Ensign,—G. E. Ludwig.

Sergeants.

1st.—James Mc Knight,
2d.—John Shaffer,
3d.—Levi Hiester,
4th.—Lewis Briner,
5th.—Howard L. Miller,

Corporals.

1st.—P. J. H. Greisemer.
2d.—David A. Stout,
3d.—Franklin Peacock,
4th.—William Nagle.



TO THE WASHINGTON GREYS OF READING P^t

This Plate is most respectfully dedicated

by Huddy & Duval.

U.S. Military Magazine Volunteers - Vol. 3^d.

Entered according to act of Congress in the Year 1842 by Huddy & Duval in Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern Dist. of Pa.

MILITARY CONVENTION.

Agreeably to notice a number of Commissioned Officers of the Militia of this commonwealth, met at the Court House in Harrisburg, on the 20th day of January, 1842. When on motion,

Gen. ABBOT GREEN, of Union county, was called to the chair; and

Maj. JACOB SEILER, of Harrisburg, appointed Secretary.

A motion was made by Gen. DILLER, which was read as follows, viz:

Resolved, That all Militia and Volunteer officers now in commission in Pennsylvania, and the committees on the Militia system of both houses of the Legislature, are permitted and requested to participate in this convention, and that the officers representing any of the Brigades shall hand a list of such as are in attendance, or are known to be in Harrisburg, to the Secretaries forthwith. Which was adopted.

A motion was made by Gen. DAVIS, which was read as follows, viz:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed who shall invite the Governor, Heads of Departments, and members of the Senate and House of Representatives, to take a seat in the convention. Which was agreed to—and ordered that Gen. Davis, Gen. Foulke, and Maj. M'Caslin be the committee.

On motion of Gen. SAMUEL ALEXANDER,

Ordered, that Generals Alexander, Davis, Jacobs, Colonel Piolet, and Lieut. Dohnert, be a committee to select officers to preside over the deliberations of this convention, and report the same at 3 o'clock, P. M.

On motion of Gen. ALEXANDER,

Ordered, that when this convention, adjourn it will adjourn to meet again this afternoon.

A motion was made by Gen. FOULKE, which was read as follows, viz:

Resolved, That all the officers present who have their uniforms with them, be requested to attend the sittings of this convention in uniform. Which was agreed to.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

SAME DAY—THE CONVENTION MET.

Gen. ALEXANDER from the committee appointed to select officers to preside over the deliberations of this convention, made the following report, viz:

For President.—Maj. Gen. ABBOT GREEN:

For Vice Presidents.—Gen. R. H. HAMMOND, Gen. H. B. JACOBS, Col. H. B. WRIGHT, Col. A. S. ROUMFORT.

For Secretaries.—Maj. J. Seiler, Maj. W. M. Huddy. Which report was unanimously adopted.

Gen. GREEN upon assuming the chair, remarked as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:—It has just been announced in your hearing, by the chairman of the committee appointed this morning, for the purpose of reporting officers for the permanent organization, that they have nominated me as their presiding officer, which nomination has just been sanctioned by the convention. And in entering upon the duties of the respectable station assigned me by your partiality allow me to say that I feel much flattered with this mark

of respect, and my gratification is more increased when I reflect that I am called to this seat by a convention composing so many distinguished and respectable officers.

But, Gentlemen, not having much experience in parliamentary proceedings, while acting as your presiding officer I shall no doubt commit some errors, which will require your kind indulgence. But be assured, that however many my errors may be, none of them shall be intentional.

The respectability of the members of the convention would justify the conclusion, that no disorder in our deliberations need be apprehended.

But should I be disappointed in my anticipations, I can assure the convention that no effort of mine shall be wanting to preserve its dignity, and promote with the utmost ability in my power the prompt despatch of its business.

Gen. DAVIS from the committee appointed to invite the Governor, Heads of Departments and members of the Legislature—Reported that they had performed that service, and that the Governor, Heads of Departments and members of the Legislature would attend the sitting of the Convention this afternoon in a body. Laid on the table.

A motion was made by Gen. DAVIS, that a committee of seven be appointed, who are to prepare proceedings to be submitted for the consideration and deliberation of the Convention. Which was agreed to—and ordered, that Gen. Davis, Gen. Alexander, Gen. Diller, Capt. Hay, Maj. M'Caslin, Col. M'Cahen, and Capt. Roberts, by the committee.

On motion of General DILLER—ordered that Captain PARTRIDGE, be invited to take a seat in this Convention.

Capt. PARTRIDGE having taken his seat—On motion, he addressed the Convention on the subject of National Defence.

Gen. DAVIS from the committee to prepare proceedings for the action of the Convention, made a report which was read as follows, viz:

The safe-guard of a republic is a well regulated militia. Washington in his communications to Congress never ceased to impress upon them the necessity of keeping up a well organized militia. Jefferson in his message to Congress, in 1807, embodies several principles, which in his estimation, should be considered essential articles in our political creed, among which we find the following:

“A well armed and disciplined militia is our best reliance in peace, and for the first movements in war.” From such authorities, we should hardly anticipate an appeal. It has, however, been the fashion among some of our citizens to decry the militia. It has become highly important that every well wisher of our republican institutions should discountenance every attempt to deprive the great mass of citizens of arms, or of the means necessary to their efficient use. A nation of armed freemen trained and disciplined, presents a secure barrier against attack from without, or disturbance from within. We are especially called upon at present, to give attention to this subject, whilst we are threatened with war by the most powerful nation on earth. The militia, or citizen soldiers, comprises all the free white able bodied men of the country, and they number about 1,750,000 men. This force

constitutes the grand military defence of the country. They are identified with our free institutions, and can never prove dangerous to its liberty. The number, if properly organized, is sufficient to set at defiance foreign invasion.

The patriotic framers of the United States Constitution, were fully impressed with the importance of this force to the security of the country when, by the 8th section of the 15th article of that instrument, they declared that Congress shall provide for arming and disciplining the militia.

Notwithstanding the power thus conferred upon Congress, and its great importance to the security of life, liberty, and property, no uniform organization of the militia by authority of the Congress exists. The only step Congress has taken towards effecting this object, has been the passage of a law to arrange the militia, in the several States, into Divisions, Brigades, Regiments, Battalions and Companies, according as the Legislatures of the several States may, by law, direct.

By the report of the Secretary of War, it will be seen that the small Army of 10,600 men has cost nearly \$14,000,000 the last year. This may justify the due consideration of the best means of guarding against the necessity of an increase of the Army. A portion of the national revenue might doubtless be appropriated with advantage to training the militia, to discharge the duty of citizen soldiers. The facilities already established by Canals and Rail Roads for purposes of trade, afford the means of promptly concentrating an army on any point that should be threatened with invasion; with the great body of the freemen of this country armed and disciplined, every security that military force can confer would be obtained.

To avoid the expense and the interruption of other pursuits, the citizens qualified to bear arms might be divided into two classes: one to be trained and disciplined and kept organized so as to be ready at all times to act with efficiency should their services be required. The other class to be officered and enrolled and kept in reserve for occasions in which the first class should not supply an adequate force.

This convention is fully convinced that the defence of the country can only be safely entrusted to the great body of its citizens. That to fit them for the proper discharge of this important trust, prompt and efficient measures should be adopted to organize, train and discipline a body of men to be drawn from the mass of citizens, and to be constantly supplied from that source, who in numbers, arms and discipline, should be equal to any emergency likely to occur in our country. That with this view the classification of the militia as recommended by the Adjutant General in his last report to the Governor, meets their decided approbation. This view is also in accordance with the report of a committee of Officers appointed by the Military State Convention of June last—who came to this conclusion after a most careful examination of the whole subject, in relation to our military system. This would be the means of greatly reducing the expense of our militia system whilst it would greatly increase its efficiency.

The Convention therefore believe it should be respectfully and earnestly urged upon the Legislature to adopt the suggestions contained in these reports.

A motion was made that the report be adopted:

Which was agreed to.

The following petition was then read:

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania,

The memorial of the subscribers respectfully shows:

That in the month of June, 1841, a Military Convention, consisting of a large number of the officers of the militia and volunteers, from all parts of the state, assembled at Harrisburg, and after a free interchange of opinions, and discussion of military subjects, agreed unanimously as to the imperious necessity of a change in our militia laws.

A committee was then appointed for the purpose of embodying the views of the Convention, in the shape of a memorial, to be presented by them to the Legislature.

In accordance with those directions the committee have the honour of addressing you, and of submitting to your consideration the few points they deem essentially necessary to give strength and respectability to the militia, as well as the means they propose, to introduce economy in the military expenditures of the state, now wantonly wasted with but little benefit to the system. In the performance of their duty, the committee have carefully abstained from recommending the framing of a new law, and restricted themselves to a few important alterations, they believe loudly called for, without touching the complicated details of the present act.

It becomes daily more evident to every patriotic and reflecting mind, that on the breaking out of a war, an event by no means improbable, with three or four thousand miles of coast exposed to enemies possessing increased facilities for transportation across the Atlantic, the only means of repelling invasion are to be looked for in a well organized citizen soldiery.—No standing army which the Union might raise and maintain, (even if such a force were not at variance with the spirit of our institutions,) would be adequate to so extended a line of operations.

To render, then, the militia, without loss of time, efficient as it is numerous, would seem a paramount duty with the general government, but until the power vested by the constitution in congress shall have been duly exercised, it is equally incumbent on the states to exercise every exertion to attain so desirable an object.

Pennsylvania, exposed to attacks from the Lakes, Chesapeake, and the Delaware, should be foremost in organizing its means of defence, and its legislature can find every necessary power, in the comprehensive words of the new constitution, (2nd section, 5th article) "the freemen of this commonwealth shall be armed, organized, and disciplined for its defence, when and in such manner as may be directed by law."

The first consideration in relation to that subject which presented itself to the committee, as it has done, it is believed, to the great mass of the community, was the entire uselessness of militia trainings, as exhibited in our spring musters. There appeared but one opinion among the members, that trainings of *ununiformed* citizens were destructive of military pride, and as a natural consequence in many cases, of all discipline and subordination; that neither officers or men acquired any useful knowledge, while the excesses too gen-

erally attending these musters, had a demoralizing effect on the troops, and on the surrounding population.

The next subject of investigation were the causes of the apparent inefficiency of the mode of collecting fines for non-attendance at those trainings, and the committee will not take up your time in detailing the flagrant abuses which are openly committed under it. Suffice it to say, that so disreputable have those trainings become in several of the eastern brigades, that every subterfuge to avoid an appearance has been winked at, and every species of fraud been resorted to, to avoid the payment of fines. Those malversations have reached to such a point that divisions which, from their returns, ought under the present law, to pay yearly, large sums into the state treasury, on the contrary, draw from it equally large amounts to supply pretended deficiencies.

To those two radical defects in our present system, the committee has turned all its attention, and it is believed that remedies can now be effectually and constitutionally applied.

Many plans have been suggested to reduce the effective militia to a much smaller number than that of the enrolled citizens, none perhaps, appears more plausible than that of requiring the military services of young men only, between 21 and any definite age, and of taxing the others to defray the expenses of disciplining this youthful elite. It has been urged with great force, that as a comparatively small portion of the militia could possibly ever be needed, such a classification should be made, as should throw the burthen on the youth, in preference to maturer years. The committee have examined that proposal with all the respect it is entitled to, and it is not without serious consideration, they deem it incompatible with the existing acts of Congress, providing "that every free white male citizen of the United States between 18 and 45 shall be liable to militia duty." What right have we to say to any citizen, "you are over 26, therefore, you shall not be permitted either to prepare yourself for or to partake of the defence of your country, but you shall pay a tax as an equivalent for service?" His answer is obvious: "I am ready to equip myself according to law; I claim to perform my tour of duty, and you can neither tax nor fine me, unless I refuse or neglect to comply with the requisitions of the law. The act of Congress render me liable to military service. I stand on high ground when I claim the right of every citizen, between the stipulated ages, to serve in the ranks of the militia of his native state, whether in peace or in war, whether for the honor of Pennsylvania or the defence of my country.

Such has appeared to the committee the evident consequence of the proposed classification, and they have relinquished it with the less reluctance, as it would at one blow deprive the militia of every officer of experience, from the commander-in-chief to the lieutenant, and strip every volunteer corps now in existence of many of its most useful and respectable members.

In lieu of the above, it is respectfully recommended that every citizen liable to military duty, should be required to uniform and equip himself at his own expense, conformable to the United States army regulations. That every spring the choice should be offered every such citizen either to comply with the requisition of the law, or in case of refusal

or neglect, to pay a fine. That fine should be low in time of peace, but be increased in time of war.

Thus the general enrolment, agreeably to the act of Congress, should be continued, and the uniformed active militia (call them volunteers to entitle them to the benefits of several acts and regulations of the Federal Government) should be required by act of Assembly to perform the first tours of duty in due rotation, until all the different corps composing it should have been called out. The reserve, or ununiformed militia should not be required to take the field until the service of the volunteers should have been exhausted, and it may not be amiss to remind your honorable bodies, that there is no law at present, requiring from our volunteers to perform any service before the militia, whatever may have been the practice.

The committee are of opinion that the best mode of improving the volunteers, is to require in every brigade and division, in which the population is not too sparse, or spread over too great an extent of country, yearly encampments of not less than three days, for which every officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, should receive the same compensation of one dollar per day, whatever may be his rank. The Commonwealth should furnish the necessary camp equipage and its conveyance to and from the ground, as well as free State tolls to the troops on all public works. It is believed that a proper economy of this per diem allowance would be adopted by the volunteers, and enable them to extend the length of their encampments.

To defray the expenses of those encampments, it is proposed that all militia fines should be paid as heretofore, into the State Treasury; but the committee have been specially instructed to press upon your honorable bodies, the evident advantages that would accrue to the Commonwealth, by placing in the hands of the county commissioners, the collection of those fines along with the county rates and levies.

The committee has not been unmindful of the plea urged in behalf of the poor, the hardship of being forced either to uniform, or pay an equivalent for service. Still the present fine for non-attendance under our militia law is not less oppressive, its collection has been far more arbitrary, and the loss of time, occasioned by military trainings, a much heavier burthen; and it is respectfully submitted, whether it be not most probable that when a board of assessors convene to exonerate the collectors from the collection of taxes it is found impracticable to obtain without evident hardship, the same indulgence may be extended to cases of fines similarly circumstanced.

By the returns made the Adjutant General for the year 1841, the whole number of persons enrolled in Pennsylvania is,	236,000
Deduct Volunteers,	34,000
All Minors between eighteen and twenty-one and other exempts for cause,	37,000—
Leaves.	165,000

The present law requires of those 165,000 men, two days service each, or the payment of a fine of two dollars.

The following estimate of the amount drawn annually from the productive industry of the state, will show the practical

effect of the present system: 165,000 men at 50 cents per day, two days, \$165,000
 Their expenses each, 50 cents per day, 165,000
 Sums drawn from the State Treasury, 33,000

\$363,000

Under the plan recommended to your consideration, say four days encampment, 34,000 men, \$136,000
 A similar allowance to the officers of the reserve; who should be required to encamp with the volunteers, and either form and drill as a separate body, or perform such other duties under the direction of the commanding officer as are compatible with their respective ranks, 10,000
 Conveyance of camp equipage, 10,000
 Holding elections, 5,000
 Cleaning and transportation of arms, 8,000
 Salaries of Adj. Gen. and Brigade Inspectors, 10,000
 Keeper of Arsenals, 10,000
 Costs of collection, exonerations, loss, &c., 20,000

\$199,000

A charge on the second class as an equivalent for service of one dollar and a-half a year, on 165,000 men would produce \$247,500, sufficient to meet the expenses of the volunteers and military establishment of this Commonwealth, even were the number to increase to 40,000. It would still be a saving to the productive industry of the State, of \$125,500.

The committee will, therefore, briefly recapitulate the alterations recommended to your honorable bodies.

The suppression of all trainings of ununiformed militia.

The classification of the free white citizens of this Commonwealth, from eighteen to forty-five, into uniformed militia, say, volunteers and a reserve consisting of all those who refuse or neglect to uniform and equip themselves.

Yearly encampments of the volunteers and the officers of the reserve of at least three days in succession.

A provision imposing on the volunteers the legal obligation to perform the first tours of duty upon requisition of the Governor, either for the service of the State, or the United States.

The exemption of the reserve from all active duty, until the volunteers shall have been exhausted.

The imposition of a fine of one and a-half dollars, on all who refuse or neglect to uniform and equip themselves, and enter the ranks of the volunteers as a yearly equivalent for service.

The payment of those fines into the State Treasury, as a special fund for the expenses of the encamping and disciplining the volunteers, and of defraying the military expenses of the State.

And, above all, the collection of the fines by the county commissioners, with the common rates and levies.

All of which is respectfully submitted to the earnest attention of the legislature. By order of the Committee,

JOHN DAVIS, Maj. Gen. 2d. Division,

Chairman of the Committee.

ANDREW M. PROVOST, Brig. Gen. 1st Div. P. M. Sec'ry.

On motion, ordered, that when this convention adjourns it will adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

On motion of Gen. DAVIS,

Resolved, That this convention will attend the lecture of Capt. PARTRIDGE, this evening at 7 o'clock, in the Capitol.
 Adjourned until 9 A. M.

JANUARY 21—THE CONVENTION MET.

A motion was made by Gen. ALEXANDER, and read as follows:

Resolved, That the parading of the uniformed Militia is useless, burthensome, and injurious, and ought to be abolished.

That all able bodied white men, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, ought to be enrolled, and held liable to perform military duty for public purposes.

That drafts for public service ought to be made by classes, from the mass; but the uniformed militia might be subject to be first called into service in cases of sudden emergency.

That the mass ought to be organized according to the acts of Congress, and the uniformed militia to be also separately so organized as the nature of their duties may require.

That a system of rules in detail, founded on these principles ought to be carefully prepared.

Which were severally read and adopted.

A motion was made by Gen. DAVIS, and read as follows:

Resolved that the thanks of this convention be presented to Capt. PARTRIDGE, of the Norwich Vermont Military University for his attendance at this convention, and especially for his able exposition of the best means of defending a nation of freemen.

Which was adopted.

A motion was made by Gen. GREEN, and read as follows:

Resolved, That we recommend to the legislature the passage of a law, granting compensation to officers holding court-martials.

Which was agreed to.

A motion was made by Gen. DILLER, and read as follows:

Resolved, That this convention recommend the holding of a National Military Convention, at Baltimore on the 18th May, 1842—and that each division in Pennsylvania send not less than one delegate to be selected by the Division to said convention.

Which was agreed to.

A motion was made by Maj. SEILER, and read as follows:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers, and copies thereof transmitted to the chairman of the committee on the militia system in the Senate and House of Representatives, with a request that they present the same to their respective Houses, and that the Editors of newspapers published in Harrisburg be requested to give them an insertion.

Resolved, That the report of the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania to the legislature, be recommended to their favorable attention.

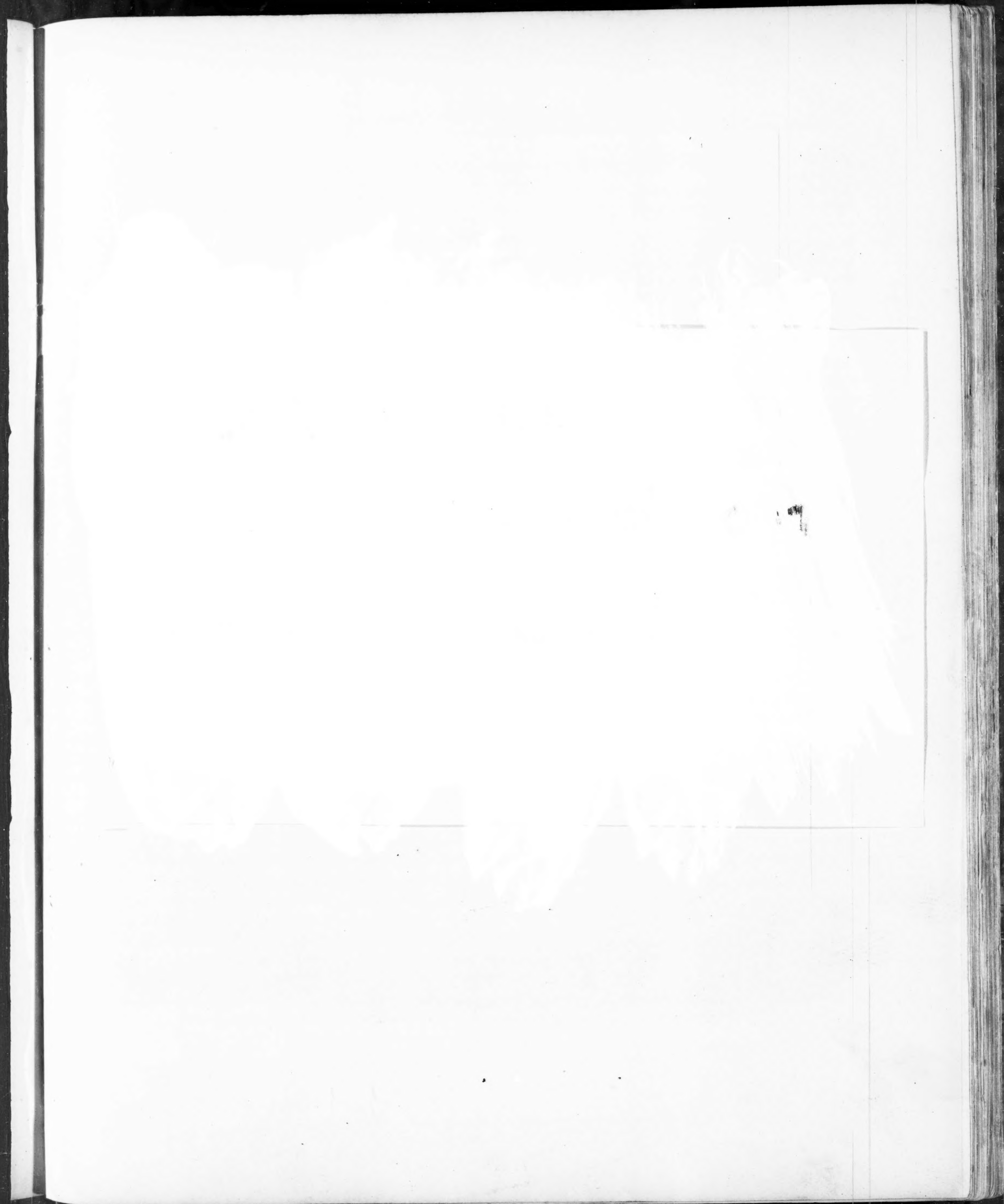
Which were agreed to.

On motion, the thanks of the convention were tendered to the officers for the faithful and satisfactory discharge of their duties.

On motion, ordered that the thanks of the convention be given to the commissioners of Dauphin county, for the use of the Court House.

Adjourned *sine die*.

Signed by the officers.







From a Painting by Edwin V. Sharp.

TO THE MACON VOLUNTEERS of MACON, GEO.

This plate is most respectfully dedicated
by *Huddy & Duval.*

U.S. Military Magazine, Volunteers. (Vol. 3rd)

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1842, by Huddy & Duval in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Pa.

P. S. Duval, Lith. Phila.

THE MACON VOLUNTEERS, OF MACON, GEORGIA.

In the early settlement of that portion of Georgia between the Flint and Ocmulgee rivers, a town was laid out at the head of navigation of the latter; which from its natural advantages, it was anticipated that there, wealth and enterprise, so characteristic of our Countrymen would seek a location. This anticipation has been realized and "the flourishing City of Macon presents another evidence of the value of republican institutions*." The organization of a military Corps was among, if not the very first of the institutions of the incipient city. From the spirit with which the *Macon Volunteer Corps* was commenced and sustained, it soon became a favourite and prominent object in the estimation of its citizens, and is now looked upon as an interesting relic of their patriotism and is the only one in this community that can date its origin at so early a period. The popularity which it then acquired it still retains, and the partiality then exercised towards it is unabated; which may be set down as highly creditable to the corps and the several officers who have commanded it. When organized it was a pioneer on the verge of a civilized community, with a powerful savage population in its vicinity—with the recently abandoned defences of a frontier warfare frowning before them from the adjacent hill still crowned with the walls and block-houses of Fort Hawkins. At that time and in such a location a Volunteer association, was not, in the anticipation, for mere holiday pastime. There were many in its ranks who had recently been inured to warfare and had fought the savages in their lairs and fastnesses in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, under Floyd, Newnan, Jackson and others. The corps was organized amidst the relics of a sanguinary savage war with its perturbed elements around them. An incident occurred immediately to claim their services for which prompt preparations were made. When Gen. McIntosh, a chief of the Creeks, who had been a brave and devoted friend of the whites during the recent war, was murdered by the hostile portion of his tribe, his followers took refuge among the white settlements of Georgia. It was believed that a military force would be necessary to restore order among them. The Macon Volunteers promptly tendered their services to take the field.—About two years afterwards they also volunteered their services to proceed to the Indian territory to aid in sustaining the authority of the state and in quelling a threatened interruption of peace on our border.

The Corps of "Macon Volunteers" was organized on the 23rd April, 1825, and consisted of about forty members.—E. W. Wright was elected Captain, William J. Danelly, 1st Lieut; Robt. Birdsong, 2nd Lieut.; John Chain, 3rd Lieut; and Saml. J. Cooledge, 1st Sergeant. It is worthy of remark and illustrative of the variety of population which composes the inhabitants of most of our frontier towns in this, and perhaps other southern states, that the members of the corps were from almost every part of the country, with scarcely half

a dozen native citizens. By the loss of the original list of members it is impossible now to ascertain the nativity of all; but is recollected that there were among them natives of South and North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and each of the N. E. States; also from Scotland and Ireland. With what might be supposed "discordant materials" the affairs of the company then proceeded in great harmony and have ever since continued to do so. There also has not been even for a brief period in which they have not been conducted with energy, a spirit of emulation and a zealous watchfulness for its welfare among its members.

Capt. Wright commanded the company about two years, when he was promoted to a higher military office. Wm. J. Danelly was elected Captain and commanded the company about four years, until his decease, which took place on the 27th June, 1831.

In Sept. following the company was re-organized; all the officers resigned their commissions, and on the 8th October, Lemuel Newcomb was elected Captain, J. G. Seymour 1st Lieut.; John M. Shelman 2nd Lieut.; A. R. McLaughlin 3rd Lieut; and Z. T. Conner Ensign. Captain Newcomb resigned his commission on the 23rd September, 1834. A. R. McLaughlin was elected on the 25th October, and resigned on the 11th December following. On the 29th of the same month, Isaac G. Seymour was elected Captain, and held his commission until the 26th May, 1841, when he resigned. On the 8th June, 1841, Isaac Holmes was elected Captain, and is the present commander of the corps.

Two rich and very beautiful Flags have been presented to the corps by the Ladies. The first in May 1833, by Mrs CAROLINE E. SEYMOUR, was delivered with an appropriate address by Dr. A. Baber, and responded to by Capt. Newcomb. The other Flag was presented by S. C. LADD, in May 1838, and entirely of her own workmanship. This was delivered by the Hon. E. A. Nisbet, and received by Lieut. J. A. Nisbet, who responded in behalf of the corps.

Believing that the most efficient military knowledge and discipline was to be obtained by regular encampments, the Macon Volunteers proposed the subject to the several independent corps of the vicinity. On the 8th May, 1832, the Georgia Guards, Captain Cuthbert, of Milledgeville, and the Monroe Musketeers, Captain Cabaniss, of Forsyth, attended the invitation, and were escorted into camp in the vicinity of Macon, and provided with tents and such other conveniences as the occasion required. Camp duty was performed for four days. This was probably the first encampment of the kind in Georgia.

In 1833, the Macon Volunteers marched to Milledgeville, (thirty miles) and on the 4th May, were escorted into camp by the Georgia Guards, Captain Cuthbert, with the Washington Guards, Captain Schley, of Saundersville. During the encampment, which continued five days, a Medal was contended for by the companies and won by private Lucas

*A remark of Gen. La Fayette on visiting this city in 1825.

McCall, of the Macon Volunteers. Six members were selected from each company, who were to fire three shots each—distance eighty yards. Of the shots fired by the Macon Volunteers not one missed the target. The average distance of the three shots by McCall, was $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches: three shots by private James Williams, of the M. V. averaged $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

On the 16th May, 1834, the Washington Guards, Captain Schley; Georgia Guards, Captain Cuthbert, and the Macon Volunteers, Captain Newcomb, again met at Macon, together with the Bibb Cavalry, Captain Goddard, and encamped for five days—a Prize Medal was fired for and won by private Juhan, of the Georgia Guards.

In 1835, The Macon Volunteers, Capt. Seymour, marched to Saundersville (sixty miles) where they commenced camp duty on the 5th May with their old associates, the Washington Guards and Georgia Guards, and continued in camp five days. Private West of the M. V. won a splendid Medal in the prize firing.

In the early part of the year 1836, the massacre of Major Dade and his command, and the barbarous destruction of life without regard to age or sex, by the Indians of Florida, aroused the feelings of the citizens of the Southern States, and urged numbers of them to tender their services for the protection of their suffering brethren. Among the first of these were the Macon Volunteers; who through their commanding officer, offered their services to the Governor of Georgia. They were accepted and an order issued from the Executive by which, the Macon Volunteers, Captain Seymour; State Fencibles, Captain Merinether; Monroe Musketeers, Captain Cureton; Hancock Blues, Captain Brown; and the Morgan Guards, Captain Foster, were commanded to rendezvous in Macon, organize themselves into a Battalion and elect a Major. Mark A. Cooper Esq. was elected Major and the Battalion embarked for Florida on the 7th of February. The Macon Volunteers numbered ninety-two men. On the 12th they landed at Picolata, East Florida, and on the 18th were mustered into the service of the United States, and attached to the command of Lt. Col. Bankhead. They traversed a considerable portion of Florida under the command of Generals Scott and Clinch, engaged in several skirmishes, and suffered much from fatigue, scarcity of food and exposure to the weather; they being without tents nearly the whole of the campaign. They returned home on the 25th May, having been absent three and a half months.

In May 1839, the Macon Volunteers marched to Milledgeville, at which place, a general convention of the State had assembled, when they had a short encampment, not meeting any other companies.

On the 23rd April, 1840, the Fifteenth anniversary of the corps, they pitched their tents on the public square of Macon. A splendid gold hilted sword was presented to Capt. Seymour by the company and delivered by Lieut. Holmes, accompanied by an impressive, feeling and soldier-like address; which was replied to by Captain Seymour in a spirited and patriotic manner. The hilt of the sword bore this inscription:

"Seymour! lead on, and we will follow thee
To the last gasp, with truth and loyalty.

On the 1st May, 1840, they attended an encampment in Savannah, a distance of about two hundred miles. The corps mustering seventy-seven men. One hundred miles of the distance was performed by marching, the other by the Central Rail Road, the use of which had been generously tendered them by Col. Gordon, the president, free of charge. The other companies present were, the Clinch Riflemen, Captain Starnes; and Artillery Guards, Captain Gould, of Augusta; the Metropolitan Grays, Captain Kenan, of Milledgeville; the Liberty Troop, (cavalry) Captain Anderson of Liberty County; the Republican Blues, Captain Anderson; Savannah Volunteer Guards, Captain Bowen; Phoenix Riflemen, Captain Segur; Chatham Artillery, Captain Stephens; and Georgia Hussars, Captain Behn, of Savannah.—One hundred and forty-five tents were pitched, and every preparation made by the citizens of Savannah to make their guests comfortable; and as hosts they acted their part generously and nobly. The encampment continued for six days, during which time a table for the several corps was sumptuously furnished and various refreshments and amusements provided by the ladies and others. This was undoubtedly the most imposing and brilliant spectacle of the kind that has ever been witnessed in this, or any neighboring State, and a beneficial effect has already been the result, by exciting and diffusing a proper spirit among our Volunteer corps—and the generous rivalry, the interchange of kind feelings and hospitalities to each other will probably be renewed on future occasions. During the encampment the Macon Volunteers in appearance and deportment acquitted themselves most creditably, and sustained their reputation among the oldest and best drilled corps of the state.

The present officers of the Macon Volunteers are,

ISAAC HOLMES,—CAPTAIN.

Lieutenants,

1st, Z. T. Conner, 2nd, E. L. Shelton,
3rd, E. D. Williams.

Ensign,—Thomas N. Beall.

Sergeants.

1st, J. T. Council,
2nd, M. J. McMullin,
3rd, James M. Bivins,
4th, A. G. Butts,
5th, L. H. Jeter.

Corporals.

1st, H. C. Freeman,
2nd, A. J. Macarthy,
3rd, Timothy Dickenson,
4th, J. P. Lord,
5th, M. D. Barnes.

C. C. Usher, Secretary &c.

Honorary Members.

J. G. Seymour,
*S. Rose,
Jno. B. Lamar,
James R. Butts,
K. Tyner.

A. R. McLaughlin,
James Williams,
J. A. Nisbet,
Jno. T. Lamar,

*The only individual who assisted in the formation of the corps, who has continued a member to the present time.



To Major *Fred. Hambright* Lancaster, Pa

U.S. Military Magazine, Vol. 31

This plate is most respectfully dedicated

by Huddy & Duval.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the Year 1861, by Huddy & Duval, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Pa.